

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

CIEP-02 FAA-00 PA-02 PRS-01 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 ARAE-00 /067 W

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O R 091811Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1727

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 2181

PASS TO WILLIAM HENDRICKS, NTSB, CENTRAL INVESTIGATION
DIVISION, AVIATION ACCIDENT BRANCH (AI-11)

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BB

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF CRASH INQUIRY

REF: BRIDGETOWN 2175

1. NOVEMBER 9 EDITION OF ADVOCATE-NEWS FRONT-PAGED STORY
ON FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION CAPTIONED "TIGHT SECURITY AT CRASH
ENQUIRY - CUBAN OBJECTION OVERRULED". EXCERPTS:

"AT THE BEGINNING OF YESTERDAY'S HEARING, THE CUBAN
DELEGATION THROUGH ITS BARBADIAN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, MR.
HARLEY MOSELEY, AND SUPPORTED BY THE DELEGATION'S LEADER,
MARIO MARTINEZ, REITERATED ITS OBJECTION TO AMERICAN PARTI-
CIPATION IN THE HEARING, ACCUSING THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-
MENT OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SABOTAGE OF THE DC-8
AIRLINER.

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IT WAS THE CONTENTION OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION THAT INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPATION OF THE STATE OF MANUFACTURE ONLY IF THE CRASH WAS THE RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT, AND IF SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD MEAN INCREASED SAFETY.

CUBA ARGUED THAT ON INFORMATION RECEIVED SO FAR, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE CRASH RESULTED FROM SABOTAGE."

2. "AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE MR. FRANK WILLIS, ASSISTANT TO THE LEGAL OFFICER FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PRESENT BECAUSE IT WAS INVITED BY BARBADOS, AND BECAUSE IT BELIEVED IN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION WHICH WAS VITAL FOR ENSURING CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY....THE UNITED STATES CATEGORICALLY REJECTED ANY ASSERTION THAT IT WAS INVOLVED EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THE INCIDENT....HE HOPED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD, IN A DISPASSIONATE MANNER, EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE BEFORE IT AND COME TO CONCLUSIONS. HE REJECTED THE CUBAN "NOTION" ALTOGETHER AND SAID THAT THERE WAS NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED."

3. "CHAIRMAN, ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE MR. DENYS WILLIAMS RULED THAT THE COMMISSION COULD NOT ACCEDE TO THE CUBAN SUBMISSION BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD MEAN NULLIFYING A GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO THE UNITED STATES AND ACCEPTING THE CUBAN DEFINITION OF ACCIDENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS WOULD LIMIT THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE MR. WILLIAMS' RULING WAS ACCEPTED BY CUBA, BUT IT REPEATED ITS PROTEST AT THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES...MR. MOSELEY SAID THAT THE OBJECTION WAS NOT MAKE FRIVOLOUSLY OR MISCHIEVOUSLY FOR TWO REASONS. FIRSTLY, HE SAID, HIS CLIENTS FELT IT NECESSARY TO PLACE ON RECORD AT AN EARLY STAGE THEIR OWN ESTABLISHED VIEWS. AND SECONDLY, THEY WISHED TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE EVIDENCE WHICH THEY HAD PRODUCED WAS THE BASIS OF THEIR OBJECTION. MR. MOSELEY ADDED.. THAT IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD FOR MANY YEARS NOW, GIVEN AID AND COMFORT TO THE AVOWED ENEMIES OF THE CUBAN STATE. ..."

4. RADIO/TV PLAY EQUALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND FOLLOWED SIMILAR UNCLASSIFIED

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LINES. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANY EDITORIAL COMMENT SO FAR.

5. COMMENT: THE US GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED THIS JUDICIAL INQUIRY, CHAIRED BY THE BARBADIAN CHIEF JUSTICE, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING THE MOST COMPETENT POSSIBLE LEGAL AND TECHNICAL REPRESENTATION. WE FEEL THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PERSONS OF AVIATION-EXPERIENCED DEPARTMENTAL LAWYER FRANKLIN WILLIS

AND NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD EXPERT
EDWARD DREIFUS, BOTH OF WHOM ARE WELL KNOWN TO INQUIRY
PARTICIPANTS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN AIR MATTERS. WHILE THE
PRESS UNDERSTANDABLY GAVE GENEROUS COVERAGE TO ATTORNEY
WILLIS' DISPASSIONATE AND IMPRESSIVE HANDLING OF THE
POLITICS-LEGAL ARGUMENTS AND OBJECTIONS, IT OVERLOOKED
THE LESS UNDERSTANDABLE, HIGHLY TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS
OF AIR SAFETY EXPERT DREIFUS. IT IS MY CONSIDERED
JUDGMENT THAT RESPECT AND APPRECIATION OF THE US
GOVT HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY
ENHANCE
BY THE PRESENCE AND COMPOSITION OF OUR REPRESENTATION.
IN THIS REGARD, I COMPLIMENT AND COMMEND WILLIS AND
DREIFUS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE.
BRITTON

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